

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
May 15, 2013
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee (via telephone)
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

Staff

Keith N. Chambers
Reva Bauch
Michael J. Evans
LaNade Bridges
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine Welninski

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Members of Public: None.

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On May 15, 2013 at 10:04 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Dee gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would be unable to be physically present at the meeting. Commissioner Dee requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Commissioner Dee to participate via telephone was made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Ronen. Motion carried 10-0.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Yadgir gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

II. Consideration of Minutes

April 24, 2013

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2013, meeting as amended. The April 24, 2013 minutes were amended to reflect that in item 5B, Chairman Castro moved to deny the Petition for Rehearing En Banc. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 10-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

The Chairman reported that he attended the Latino Family State Commission Conference in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission.

The Chairman reported that he was invited by the Governor to attend a cabinet meeting as well as his senior staff meeting. During the meeting the Office of Management and

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Budget (“OMB”) informed the Chairman that larger state agencies were requested to make further cuts to their budgets in the amount of 6%. The Chairman further reported that ordinarily the HRC would be exempt from a budget cut of this size because of the already small size and budget of the agency. However, in case the Commission was not going to be exempted, the Commission had to develop a contingency plan and model out what a 6% budget cut would look like for the Commission. The Chairman further reported that in a worst case scenario, the Commission would have to take this money out of the FY14 budget.

The Chairman reported that the Commission’s \$50,000.00 request to cover the union wages is included in the Governor’s supplemental appropriations request.

The Chairman reported that he is still working with Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) on the issue of the Commission receiving funds for fair housing cases processed by the HRC.

IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers reported that he attended the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association’s annual statewide conference May 2nd, 2013 in Springfield.

Mr. Chambers reported that he is working with HUD on the issue of reimbursement for HUD cases processed by the Commission. Mr. Chambers reported that funds may become available in the months ahead.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that he spoke with the Senior Budget Analyst about the 6% budget cut. Dr. Ewa stated that a 6% budget cut would equate to \$113,000.00. This amount would prevent the Commission from filling staff vacancies in the Commission.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section’s statistics for the month of April 2013.

Judge Evans announced that Administrative Law Judge William Borah was elected Vice Chair of the Labor & Employment Section of the Illinois State Bar Association.

D. Donyelle L. Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray issued general reminders to the Commissioners regarding submission of timesheets and the completion of the Ethics Training for Appointees, and requested that

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the Commissioners complete the training by the end of June 2013. Ms. Gray also provided the Commissioners with Employment Law updates.

Ms. Gray announced to the Commission that, at the request of some of the Commissioners, the Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) would provide a brief review of Robert’s Rules of Order at an upcoming En Banc meeting.

Ms. Gray also advised the Commissioners that if they would like training or further information on any additional topics, the Commissioners should contact the OGC.

VI. New Business

Commissioner Nabi requested the body consider schedule changes for the upcoming June 26th, August 14th and November 20th En Banc meetings, due to a conflict with his schedule.

The Commission agreed to his request and the following new meeting times would be reflected in the 2013 meeting calendar posted on the Commission’s website:

June 26, 2013 Panel C meeting: Moved to 10:00 a.m.

June 26, 2013, En Banc meeting: Moved to 11:30 a.m.,

August 14, 2013 En Banc meeting: Moved to 11:30 a.m.

November 20, 2013, Panel C meeting: Moved to 10:00 a.m.

November 20, 2013, En Banc meeting: Moved to 11:30 a.m.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Executive Session

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Walsh, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel